

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_, SERIES 2010**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT  
AND THE JEFFERSON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT GENERAL TERM  
TO CREATE TWO (2) SEPARATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT  
DOCKETS.**

**Sponsored By: Councilwoman Vicki Aubrey Welch**

**WHEREAS**, one in every 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in their household; and

**WHEREAS**, witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of intimate partner violence **exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services**; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of intimate partner violence lost almost **eight million days of paid work** because of the violence perpetrated against them by intimate partners. This loss is the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the Louisville Metro Police responded to 30,278 domestic violence calls for service; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the victim advocates in the Domestic Violence Intake Center provided services to 4,100 domestic violence victims; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the Center for Women and Families provided individual counseling to 30,355 domestic violence victims, and furnished legal advocacy to 11,284 victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson County Attorney's Office prosecutes between 4,000 to 5,000 domestic violence cases annually; and

**WHEREAS,** over 25% of Metro Louisville's homicides for 2008 were domestic violence homicides; and

**WHEREAS,** the serious consideration and treatment of misdemeanor domestic violence cases can prevent homicides; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kentucky Supreme Court and the Jefferson County District Court General Term are currently considering a court reorganization in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS,** the Office of the Jefferson County Attorney already dedicates the resources of 26 full time prosecutors, victim's advocates, and support staff exclusively to the prosecution of domestic violence offenses; and

**WHEREAS,** furthermore, the Jefferson County Sheriff, Jefferson County Attorney, and the Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office dedicate significant resources to the operation of a Domestic Violence Intake Center, which is open 24 hours/7 days per week/365 days per year for use by victims of domestic violence and by law enforcement for appropriate rapid response to incidents of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS,** for more than 10 years, the Louisville Metro Police Department has devoted the services of full-time Domestic Violence Detectives to address the unique demands and imminent danger created by domestic violence crime; and

**WHEREAS,** Metro Government now deems it prudent for the Jefferson County District Court General Term to join the efforts put forth already by these other government offices by creating two (2) domestic violence dockets as part of its reorganization so that domestic violence cases

are not only a priority, but an expertise is developed to deal with these highly sensitive and serious matters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE COUNCIL) AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I:** The Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government requests the Kentucky Supreme Court and the Jefferson County District Court General Term institute a system of two (2) Domestic Violence Dockets in the Jefferson County District Court to address the growing violence that has been already recognized and addressed by the other branches of government. Early but forceful judicial action can break the cycle of abuse. Knowledge by the perpetrator that he or she will be held accountable and knowledge by the victim that he or she has a resource for help that is well-informed, skilled and dedicated to the issue of Domestic Violence is needed by this community and should be made available through the Court system.

**SECTION II:** This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

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Kathleen J. Herron  
Metro Council Clerk

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Thomas L. Owen  
President of the Council

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Jerry E. Abramson  
Mayor

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Approval Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Michael J. O'Connell  
Jefferson County Attorney

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
01/19/2010 Draft 3 9:35 a.m.